

Newsletter

Wentworth Shire Council
The Shire Where the Two Great Rivers Meet

February 2009

Wentworth Shire Garden Competition Begins

The Wentworth Shire is running a garden competition to find a household front garden and nature strip that is not only attractive in appearance, but also cost effective to maintain.

The judges will be looking for the following:-

1. Water saving devices such as rainwater tanks, dripper systems, trigger nozzles etc.
2. Low maintenance gardens such as mulching, drought resistant plants, na-

tive plants.

3. A neat and attractive appearance.

4. Mulched or landscaped nature strips.

The competition is open to all householders whose water is supplied by the Wentworth Shire.

The winner of the competition will receive a credit of \$150 on their water account, second place a credit of \$100 and third place a credit of \$50.

Entry forms are available from any Shire Library, the Shire Offices or by contacting the Shire's Customer Service Desk on 5027 5027. Entries close on Monday 13 April, 2009. Entry Forms are to be returned to your nearest Library or posted to the Wentworth Shire Council, PO Box 81, Wentworth NSW 2648.

Judging will be on front gardens that have been designed to use less water and still provide for attractive plantings.

Water Saving Initiatives Expanded

Wentworth Shire Council has decided to provide a free trigger nozzle to pensioners and senior card holders who are supplied by town water. One will be provided per household.

The Shire has already had a good takeup in relation to the free tap timer scheme. The free trigger nozzle scheme is one of a number of water saving initiatives introduced by Council and developed over the

last few months.

The general manager, Peter Kozlowski, said that the idea of extending Council's initiatives to include a trigger nozzle to assist in managing water restrictions through more control over water consumption came from a recent workshop attended by councillors.

The Mayor Margaret Thomson said that the scheme is a simple one and eligible persons

can contact the Council on 50275027 to receive their free trigger nozzle. "The criteria to be eligible is that you need to be a pensioner or a holder of a seniors card, resident of the Shire, have a suitable connection to the nozzle, and receive town water received by the Shire," she said. "One trigger nozzle will be provided per household".

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Training reminder with fox baiting season drawing close

With the fox baiting season about to commence Livestock Health and Pest Authorities are reminding landholders to ensure they have the relevant chemical accreditation to obtain and use 1080 fox baits on their property.

Livestock Health and Pest Authority State Management Council Pest Animal Manager, Tim Seears, said rangers would need to sight at a minimum a current AQF3 chemical handling accreditation and competency card before issuing baits.

“Livestock Health and Pest Authorities are the only suppliers of 1080 fox baits in NSW and are working to ensure their safe use and minimise the risk to non-target animals.

“As such authorities are now enforcing the requirement to hold the correct chemical accreditation and help achieve compliance with a new Pesticide Control Order for 1080 products which came into effect late last year.

“March and April are considered the most effective months in which to carry out control programs when foxes are dispersing and finding new territory.

“We are encouraging landholders who have not yet completed the relevant training to contact their local authority who can help them locate a suitable course in their region or online training option.

“Landholders should also check the expiry date on their chemical training cards and to do a refresher course if necessary,” Tim Seears said.

Foxes are Australia’s number one predator and are estimated to cost agricultural industries and the environment more than \$200 million each year. In uncontrolled areas foxes have been shown to cause lamb losses of up to 30% and are also known to target other domestic animals such as calves, goats, deer, water fowl and poultry. They also cause significant environmental damage by preying on many species of native wildlife and spreading weeds such as blackberries.

„The most effective way to control fox populations and reduce the risk to livestock and the environment is with ongoing and intensive baiting programs particularly from March to April and prior to lambing seasons.

“I urge all landholders to complete the relevant training and bring their AQF3 card with them when picking up baits or placing an order with their local authority,” Tim Seears said.

Livestock Health and Pest Authorities are also on hand to provide help and advice to landholders on control plans, coordinating group programs, bait placement and the most effective bait types for different conditions.

The Chemical Card Plus workshop will be conducted in Wentworth on **Wednesday 1st April 2009** from 8.30am to 4.30pm for Initial Accreditation and from 1.30pm to 4.30pm for Refresher (evidence of previous chemical training e.g. ChemCert card or SmartTrain certificate). For further information contact Trevor Ablett, local Livestock Health and Pest Authority (formerly the local RLPB) on 0427 200 820.

Water Saving Initiatives Expanded (continued from page 1)



The trigger nozzle can be collected from the Shire Offices in Wentworth, or at the Dareton or Buronga Libraries or liaise with the Pooncarie Shire ganger. For more information about the “water nozzle” initiative contact Council on 50275027.



Council Meeting Notes—18 February 2009

- ◆ Performance Report Second Quarterly Review Of Council's Management Plan 2008/2009 (year ending 31 December 2008) - *The review is a progress report on the performance and delivery of Council services as compared with the targets and standards set in the Plan and was presented to Council*
- ◆ Wentworth Polo Club Inc – Annual Fees Write Off - *The Council voted to waive the annual fees of the Polo Club due to the hard ground at the Showgrounds due to the ongoing drought*
- ◆ Financial Review of Council's 2008/2009 Management Plan as at 31 December 2008—*The net result for the December Quarter after variations have been considered for Revenue*

and Expenditure including Capital will be an unfavourable variance of \$29,509. The September quarter variations resulted in a favourable variance of \$214,490.

- ◆ Suspension of Alcohol Free Zone – Wentworth Rowing Club—*Council suspended the operation of the alcohol free zone in the area of Wentworth Rowing Club Lawns on the day of April 12th 2009 for the Easter Regatta.*
 - ◆ Wentworth 150 Year Celebrations—*Council were advised of the activities of the 150th Committee and highlight the events planned for 19, 20 and 21 June 2009, to mark 150 years since the town of Wentworth was named and gazetted (18th June 1859). 150th celebrations will include the following official events*
- 1.Welcome Reception**

- 2.Running of the Sheep**
 - 3.Street Parade**
 - 4.Official Opening – awaiting attendance advice from Governor of NSW**
 - 5.Welcome to Country**
 - 6.Old Time Films**
 - 7.“Festival of Pubs”**
 - 8.Celebration of Wentworth as a township**
 - 9.Brunch at the Wharf
- Other community groups have planned the following additional events/attractions to occur during the three days of celebrations:-
- Unveiling of John Egge Statue
 - P.S. Ruby steaming and providing free rides from the Wharf
 - Vintage Cars and Fergie Tractors
 - Unveiling plaque at Anglican Church
 - Little Lunch at The Gaol
 - Book Launch
 - Fashion from the Outback
 - Parade of Wooden Boats
 - Sweat Box Art

CROWN RESERVE ASSET AND DATA MANAGEMENT (CRADM) PROJECT

All Council's recreational facilities are located on Crown Land. Wentworth Shire Council acts as Trustees on behalf of the Minister of Lands.

The Department of Lands is responsible for reserve management issues and ensures that the reserves are well maintained.

The Department is looking towards creating an online reporting system to help all reserve trust managers meet reporting requirements in the *Crown Lands Regulation 2006*

in a simplified and streamlined format.

As part of this process an advisory group is to be established to advise the Department on the capture of Crown reserve information. The primary objectives of this group are:

- (1) to harmonise related existing reporting structures;
- (2) to improve the relevance, quality and consistency of the online reporting system for all reserve trusts; and

- (3) to promote and improve the effectiveness of the implementation of the CRADM system.

Kathy Collinson, Council's Property Management Officer, has been invited to be a member of the proposed advisory group to represent the interests of the reserve trust.

Kathy is keen to participate as she sees that the end result will have huge asset management benefits to Council.

My Thoughts

Wentworth Shire Council is committed to improve its services and "My Thoughts" is a valuable way of providing feedback to Councillors and staff. Take the opportunity to write your thoughts down in the area below and drop it into one of Council's libraries in Wentworth, Buronga or Dareton, Visitors Information Centre or the main Council Offices in Wentworth or simply pass it onto a staff member or Councillor.

As a resident/ratepayer of the Wentworth Shire, I would like to offer my thoughts:-

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If you provide a name and address on the following lines we will write back to you with a response within 10 days. In that time your request may be attended to in full and, if not possible, you will be advised as to the action to be taken.

Name: Phone:

Address:

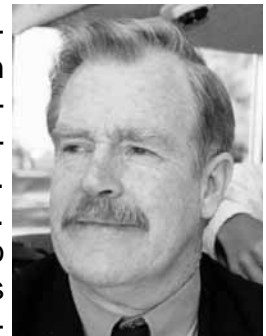
Date:

"My Thoughts" may be ideas, complaints, requests for information or action, observations, comments or questions. If the space provided is insufficient attach your additional information to the back of this page.

Peter Kozlowski, General Manager

COUNCIL LOOKING AT AERODROME REDEVELOPMENT

At Council's meeting held 18 February, 2009, Councillor McKinnon indicated that it would be beneficial to apply for a project under the \$42billion Rudd Government scheme and that perhaps a sky park for the Wentworth Aerodrome could be considered. The funds could be used to facilitate a training area, update the fuel depot, sealing of the runway/s etc. which would invite more business into the aerodrome and the Shire itself. Councillor McKinnon indicated that he would like to see a submission go in to get some money but can appreciate that the criteria and timelines involved make this almost impossible. Documents required for the application included a business plan, cost estimates, quotations, feasibility



study, project plan, budget template and the list goes on. A report will be put to the March Council meeting seeking authority from Council to approve funds to commence a business plan for the aerodrome. "If we are not in a position to make a submission this time work on supporting information should commence as soon as possible" he said. "As a Council we

have discussed the importance of developing timely strategic plans on our bigger projects. Council has already allocated funds to develop the Wentworth Showgrounds project further".



STAFF PROFILE:-

Name:	Paula Mastrippolito
Position Title:	Community and Economic Development Officer
Duties:	Liaison between Council and the community to build community capacity, develop and maintain community plans and build economic capacity.
Lives: (Town)	We have a 60 acre (approx.) horticultural property on the Wentworth side of Merbein. Approx. 30 acres of dried fruit and 30 acres of red varieties.
Family:	Husband (Nick), Andrea aged 11, Nicolas aged 9 and Oscar the dog
Community Involvement / Groups:	I am currently involved (but reviewing my continued involvement) in several organizations at board level, including the Mallee Catchment Management Authority, Mildura Chamber of Commerce, Princess Court Homes and Mildura Base Hospital Community Advisory Board. I have previously been involved with the Mildura Chamber of Commerce and the Sunraysia Mallee Economic Development Board.
What you enjoy about your job?	Too soon to tell yet. Ask me in 6 months.
Any other interesting facts?	My daughter Andrea is a budding young tennis player, and we spend many hours on the practice court together.



Paula Mastrippolito

Mayor Thomson pictured with Mrs Judith Fergin & Mr Greg Fergin



Visit to Wentworth-US Consul General

The U.S. Consul General in Sydney, Mrs. Judith Fergin, and her husband Greg visited Wentworth on Thursday 12 and Friday, February 13 with an entourage of security personnel. The purpose of Mrs. Fergin's trip was to meet local government officials, business people and individuals via official meetings and through organizations such as a Rotary. She is the chief representative of the United States in the region of New South Wales and Queensland. She travels to touch base with the local communities and speak about U.S./Australian relationships along the way.

Wentworth Shire Council
The Shire Where the Two Great
Rivers Meet

Shire Offices:
26-28 Adelaide Street Wentworth 2648
or
PO Box 81 Wentworth NSW 2648

Phone: 03 5027 5027
Fax: 03 5027 5000
email: council@wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Next Council Meeting

The next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 18 March. at 9am. Residents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We're on the Web:
www.wentworth.nsw.gov.au

Libraries:-
Wentworth: (03) 5027 5060
Dareton: (03) 5027 4258
Buronga: (03) 5023 3078
Shire After Hours Emergency Number:-
(03) 5027 5091 (Marshall Security)
For all water, sewerage, rubbish tip hours,
emergency dog matters, stray stock and cemetery
emergencies.



Council Director Corporate & Community Services Ms Terri Maguire is pictured here with Mayor Margaret Thomson at the Graduation Ceremony at La Trobe University Mildura held Friday 27 February 2009. Terri received her Bachelor of Commerce after completing 5 years of part time study and also has her Advanced Diploma of Accounting. After almost completing her degree at Adelaide University, her transfer to New South Wales meant further study which she has now completed.

Wentworth Shire Support Tourism Symposium

The Wentworth Shire is right behind the Tourism Symposium being held in Wentworth on 23 and 24 March 2009 as one of the sponsors.

The Mayor, Councillor Margaret Thomson, said that the Symposium was an important event and looked forward to meeting representatives from other parts of the State.

"The fact that the Symposium is being held in Wentworth is testament to the town's ability to hold such key events," she said.

The Symposium has the theme of partnerships in tourism and is focusing on sustainability and business development. Further information on the event can be obtained from Karen and the team at the Wentworth Visitor Information Centre. It is understood that the NSW State Minister for Tourism Jodi McKay will open the 2009 Countrylink Outback Tourism Symposium.